

# MLM Cares

METRO  
LUTHERAN  
MINISTRY

*Our Vision: To be a community that acts justly,  
loves mercy, and walks humbly with God.*

50<sup>TH</sup>  
FALL 2021

## WHAT'S INSIDE

I AM THE VINE... Jim & Susan  
Wright  
Cover

## FEEL MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

Insight from Executive  
Director, Scott Cooper  
page 2

MLM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA  
PICTURES  
page 2

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER,  
50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA  
page 3

THANK YOU TO OUR GALA  
SPONSORS  
page 4

SAVE THE DATES  
page 4

## I AM THE VINE.....

Metro Lutheran Ministry honored Jim and Susan Wright at the 50th Anniversary Gala, held September 25th at Children's Mercy Park – Mazuma Plaza. In many parts of life we may drift through, living to accumulate things and have experiences without knowing how to fulfill our intended purpose. Jim and Susan modeled much of their generosity after *John 15:1-6*. Their story began as high school sweethearts in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. They have been married for 52 years. After decades of hard work, multiple moves, and tremendous sacrifice, they have actively and intentionally pursued a legacy of generosity that is focused on sharing the Gospel and serving the needs of women and children.

Their philanthropic mission is driven by their Christian faith and founded on the many directives and commands given through scripture. Jim and Susan began a journey to create Eileen's Place. Eileen's Place is our brand new campus of 60 apartments and services aimed



Susan and Jim Wright



Eileen's Place, 7401 Armstrong Ave, KCK

to keep families stably housed while addressing individual needs. We thank Jim and Susan for their vision, generosity and making an impact on the lives of many in our community.

## Our Mission

*With abiding faith in the intrinsic value of all God's children, Metro Lutheran Ministry connects those in need with food, housing, health care, education, employment services, and other resources in order to nurture greater hope, health, opportunity, and peace.*

Metro Lutheran Ministry

**CONGRATULATIONS  
ON YOUR 50 YEARS**

*Serving the local communities of the Greater Kansas City Area!*



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## “Feel” Making the Difference

Sometimes it's easy in our everyday lives to forget to “feel” making a difference. Our giving becomes detached and sterile. We put money in the offering plate, we buy some cookies from the Girl Scouts, we send a check in to MLM. And while all those are great and needed, we still need to find ways to “feel” it.

How are we made rich? Some think it's literally money in the bank. But since everyone who donates cheerfully isn't a millionaire, I'm guessing not. I think it's really about that sense of fulfillment that comes from really touching a person's life, knowing the person,

knowing the impact. So seek out a way to closely connect with someone in a meaningful way.

We have lots of those opportunities at MLM if you need help finding that warm glow that comes from making a difference.

**Scott Cooper**  
MLM Executive Director



*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ... You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion... 2 Cor 9*



## A Night To Remember, MLM's 50th Anniversary Gala

Metro Lutheran Ministry's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala took place on the Mazuma Plaza of Children's Mercy Park-Sporting Kansas City. This beautiful evening started with wonderful weather, a champagne greeting and passed hors d'oeuvres for each guests. Event attendees mingled and enjoyed the cocktail hour and yard games such as Big Jenga and Bag Toss or gathered to "ooh" and "ahh" over the 85 items offered for bid in the Silent Auction. A personally autographed Patrick Mahomes, Kansas City Chiefs helmet was highly sought after along with an Oculus Quest 2 VR Headset courtesy of Hawthorn Bank.

Dave Anderson, President of Metro Lutheran Ministry Board of Directors, gave a heartfelt welcome to nearly 400 guests that attended. Driven by the vision to love justice, do kindness, and walk humbly with God, MLM has helped lift vulnerable families out of poverty and bring them hope for over 50 years!

Executive Director of Metro Lutheran Ministry, Scott Cooper, recapped the crazy year that 2020 was and how MLM stepped up to the challenges that came along with it. MLM focuses on 3 areas: Immediate Needs, Counseling and Housing. Immediate needs include 3 food pantries that are open 5 days a week.

In addition to food, MLM provides medical assistance, dental assistance, furniture, rent and utility assistance. Nearly 57,000 people were served in 2020 and MLM gave away \$1.6 million in rent and utility assistance.

Metro Lutheran Ministry was proud to honor Jim and Susan Wright, the visionaries of Eileen's Place.

This annual Gala was truly an event to celebrate MLM and all of our volunteers, community partners and sponsors. Thank you to North American Savings Bank, Velocity Pump A Cogent Company, Lamvera Partners, Grata Development, Mitchell Capital and many other sponsors and donors that make Metro Lutheran Ministry possible.



## Your support changes lives!

NASB is proud to partner with Metro Lutheran Ministry to present their 2021 50th Anniversary Gala.

Please join us as we celebrate and invest in Metro Lutheran Ministry and their work to provide those in need with food, housing, health care, education, and employment services.



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*"With God All Things Are Possible." Matthew 19:26*

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**HOLIDAY BBQ  
TAILGATE**

Sunday, Nov 7  
2pm - 6pm

The Martin Event Space  
13440 Holmes Rd, KCMO 64145

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Benefiting:  
Blessings Abound | Operation Breakthrough |  
MLM Holiday Store



MLM Christmas Store

December 5th-11th, 2021

**Top Needed Items:**

Small Kitchen Appliances, Adult Unisex  
Sweatpants & Sweatshirts

Coats - Kids & Adults, New Please

Children's Toys and Dolls

Nice Gifts for Women and Men

**Amazon Wish List:**

<https://a.co/iuirdMI>

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## SAVE THE DATE

11/7

Holiday BBQ Tailgate  
@ Martin Event Space

11/30

Giving Tuesday Event

12/5

Christmas Store Drop Off Day

12/8 to 12/11

Christmas Store @ Immanuel  
Lutheran Church

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